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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/772,742

02/04/2004

Atsushi Shibutani

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EXAMINER

QUIETT, CARRAMAH J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/08/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/772,742	Applicant(s) SHIBUTANI ET AL.	
	Examiner Carramah J. Quiett	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 11-25, 32 and 33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3, 4, 6, 12, 14-19, 24 and 25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5, 7, 11, 13, 20-23, 32 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02/04/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/01/2010 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-7, 11-25, 32 and 33 are pending. Claims 3-4, 6, 12, 14-19, 24 and 25 are withdrawn. However, the Claims filed on 03/08/2010 do not indicated that claim 6 is withdrawn. Respectfully, please correct the claim status indicators for subsequent submissions.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 03/08/2010, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-2, 5, 7, 20, 21, 23, 32, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Borden, IV (US Pat. App. Pub. #20020140820 – herein referred to as Borden) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view Rothmuller et al. (Pat. App. Pub. #20020033296– herein referred to as Rothmuller) under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The information disclosure statement (IDS), filed on 04/27/2010, has been placed in the application file, and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. **Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 20, 21, 23, 32, and 33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rothmuller et al. (Pat. App. Pub. #20020033296).

For **claim 1**, Rothmuller discloses an image reproduction apparatus (fig. 1 and pg. 2, pgph. 0017 – the photo input devices, [i.e. digital camera, CD-ROM, etc.]) which is connectable to a memory (database) configured to record photographed image data and photographing information of the photographed image data in association with each other (pg. 2, pgph. 0017), the image reproduction apparatus comprising:

a display (fig. 1, pg. 2, pgph. 2, 0018);

a first display control unit (tagging/see fig. 4) configured to set a given number of display areas on the display, the display areas each being assignable to one of a plurality of different image groups (pgs. 2 and 4, pgphs. 0018, 0032-0034);

a display area selection unit (fig. 2; searching/retrieving a photo with a tag) configured to select from among the display areas, based on the photographing information recorded in the memory, a display area to which an image group including the photographed image data recorded in the memory is assigned (pgs. 2-4, pgphs. 0018-0019, 0024-0025, 0032-0034);

a second display control unit (fig. 4) configured to limit a number of the photographed image data, from among all of the photographed image data of the image group assigned to the

selected display area, to be simultaneously displayed in the selected display area to a predetermined number (pg. 2, pgph. 0018; pg. 4, pgphs. 0032-0034); and

a third display control unit (fig. 3, ref. 250) configured to display other photographed image data that is from among the all of the photographed image data of the image group assigned to the selected display area and that is not included within the predetermined number, by changing the predetermined number of photographed image data simultaneously displayed in the selected display area, while maintaining display control of the first and second display control units thereby continuously displaying, in the selected display area selected by the display area selection unit from among the given number of display areas on the display, the other photographed image data of the photographed image data of the image group assigned to the selected display area (pgs. 3-4, pgphs. 0031-0032; also see fig. 4).

For **claim 2**, Rothmuller discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the photographing information is information representing photographing time of the photographed image data (pg. 2, pgphs. 0018-0023).

For **claim 5**, Rothmuller discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second display control unit includes an image selection unit configured to select the predetermined number of photographed image data having earlier photographing times, and a selected image display control unit configured to simultaneously display, in the selected display area, the predetermined number of photographed image data selected by the image selection unit (pgs. 3-4, pgphs. 0031-0032; also see fig. 4).

For **claim 7**, Rothmuller discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second display control unit limits the predetermined number of photographed image data to be

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simultaneously displayed in the selected display area to one (pgs. 2-4, pgphs. 0018, 0031-0032; also see fig. 4).

For **claim 20**, Rothmuller discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

a display area designation unit configured to designate an arbitrary display area of the given number of display areas (pg. 2, pgphs. 0018-0024), and

a fourth display control unit configured to simultaneously display, on the display, a plurality of photographed image data including photographed image data which are limitable by the second display control unit and are not displayed, in the arbitrary display area designated by the display area designation unit (pgs. 3-4, pgphs. 0031-0032; also see fig. 4).

For **claim 21**, Rothmuller discloses the apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising

an image selection unit configured to select arbitrary photographed image data from the plurality of photographed image data simultaneously displayed on the display by the fourth display control unit (pgs. 2-3, pgphs. 0018-0024).

a fifth display control unit configured to display, on the display, an enlarged image (see fig. 2) of the photographed image data selected by the image selection unit (pgs. 2-3, pgphs. 0018-0024).

For **claim 22**, Rothmuller discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising, an image sensor configured to sense an object image and output photographed image data (pg. 2, pgph. 0017 – inherent because the apparatus includes a digital camera), and wherein

the memory records the photographed image data output from the image sensor (pg. 2, pgph. 0017).

For **claim 23**, Rothmuller discloses an image reproduction apparatus (fig. 1 and pg. 2, pgph. 0017 – the photo input devices, [i.e. digital camera, CD-ROM, etc.]) which is connectable to a memory (database) configured to record a plurality of photographed image data (pg. 2, pgph. 0017), the image reproduction apparatus comprising;

- a display (fig. 1, pg. 2, pgph. 0018);

- a classification unit (fig. 1, tagging) configured to classify the plurality of photographed image data recorded in the memory into a plurality of different groups in accordance with a predetermined condition (pg. 2, pgphs. 0017-0023);

- a first display control unit (displaying one photo with a tag) configured to limit a number of the plurality of photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in each group to a predetermined number (pg. 2, pgph. 0018; pg. 4, pgphs. 0032-0034); and

- a second display control unit (searching/retrieving one or more photos with tag categories) configured to sequentially display other photographed image data from among all of the plurality of photographed image data included in each group and not displayed within the predetermined number of simultaneously displayed photographed image data, by changing the predetermined number of photographed image data simultaneously displayed in each group, while maintaining the display control of the first display control unit thereby continuously displaying on the display all of the other photographed image data included in each group (pg. 2, pgphs. 0018-0024; pg. 4, pgphs. 0032-0034).

Claim 32 is an image reproduction method claim corresponding to an image reproduction apparatus claim 1. Therefore, claim 32 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

Claim 33 is a computer readable medium having recorded thereon a computer readable program for controlling an image reproduction apparatus claim corresponding to an image reproduction apparatus claim 1. Therefore, claim 33 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

8. **Claims 11 and 13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rothmuller et al. (Pat. App. Pub. #20020033296– herein referred to as Rothmuller) in view of Anderson (U.S. Pat. #6,118,480 – herein referred to as Anderson).

For **claim 11**, Rothmuller discloses the apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a display area designation unit configured to designate an arbitrary display area of the predetermined given number of display areas (pg. 2, pgph. 0018; pg. 4, pgphs. 0032-0034). Also on pg. 2, pgph. 0024, Rothmuller discloses that metadata associated with a photo can be viewed and edited at once for a plurality of photographed image data included in the group designated by the group designation unit. Also, please see figs. 2 and 4. However, Rothmuller does not expressly teach an image processing unit configured to execute predetermined image processing

In a similar field of endeavor, Anderson discloses an image processing unit (fig. 3) configured to execute predetermined image processing (col. 5, line 63 – col. 6, line 11; col. 8, lines 36-52; fig. 9). In light of the teaching of Anderson, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Rothmuller with the apparatus of Anderson. This modification provides another means for accessing and viewing images (Anderson, col. 2, lines 28-63).

For **claim 13**, Rothmuller as modified by Anderson discloses the apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising an image processing designation unit configured to designate a type of image processing, and wherein the image processing unit executes image processing of the type designated by the image processing designation unit at once for the plurality of photographed image data (Rothmuller pg. 2, pgphs. 0018-0024; Anderson col. 5, line 63 – col. 6, line 11; col. 8, lines 36-52; figs. 3 and 9).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Patton et al. (US Pat. 6408301)

Interactive image storage, indexing and retrieval system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carramah J. Quiett whose telephone number is (571)272-7316. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Ometz can be reached on (571)272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David L. Ometz/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
2622

/C. J. Q./
Examiner, Art Unit 2622
June 5, 2010